

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Clean Air Act Settlement Grant Program Question & Answers

April 7, 2017

**Q: The application manual states “an organization may submit multiple applications... however, only one application for each topic listed above may be submitted by a single organization.” Does this apply to subcontractors as well?**

A: No, it does not apply to subcontractors.

April 7, 2017

**Q: The application manual states that a topic is “projects to conserve energy in new and existing buildings and facilities.” Does this include residential buildings and single family homes?**

A: Projects targeting residential buildings and single family homes are not excluded for eligible applicants (see 2. Eligible Applicants).

April 11, 2017

**Q: On the Excel file for the TVA Detailed Budget Workbook on Tab a. Personnel – Columns C (% of Time) and E (% of Year) – I’m not sure of the distinction. I’m assuming a person would work (say) 5% of their time over 100% of the requested budget period (a year).**

A: Yes that is correct.

April 11, 2017

**Q: On the Excel file for the TVA Detailed Budget Workbook on Tab b. Fringe – The total benefits includes a “fringe” component related to salary (22.63%) and a Health Insurance component related to the type of plan elected by the employee. This means that the total benefits are not necessarily a fixed percentage applying to all personnel. Is it OK to make up the fringe benefit rate appearing in cell D5 so the correct amount is calculated and displayed in cell D6?**

A: Yes that is correct. Additional explanation/comments will need to be included in the workbook to justify the rate being used.

April 11, 2017

**Q: Are projects limited to the TVA service area?**

A: No

April 19, 2017

**Q: Would electric cooperative utilities be eligible to apply?**

A: Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations. If the cooperative can show non-profit status, they would be eligible.

April 21, 2017

**Q: Can you tell me the timeline for the grant? When does the project have to be completed?**

A: Grant applications are due in the Department for Energy Development and Independence (DEDI) office not later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 15, 2017. Applications will not be accepted after that date and time. An exception will be that mailed applications received after May 15, 2017, will be accepted if they were postmarked prior to May 15, 2017. The Cabinet intends, but is not required, to award the first contracts by July 1, 2017. The application manual does not put an end date for project completion.

April 25, 2017

**Q: In section 5, there is a bullet that asks for emission reduction to be calculated using this link: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-and-you/how-clean.html>, But when I click on the link it redirects to <https://www.epa.gov/energy>. Is the calculator on this page the right one? <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>?**

A: The calculator link included in your question is appropriate for use for the application.

April 26, 2017

**Q: Our proposal brings together the several municipalities for an energy efficiency program. The cities will be the beneficiaries and our organization will manage the program on their behalf. Under your scoring rubric will we be at a disadvantage if we are the applicant and they are the partner rather than the other way around?**

A: Each proposal will be scored on the merits of that proposal.

April 26, 2017

**Q: One component of the project seeks to provide funding to make energy efficiency upgrades happen through the WAP program. This could include measures that WAP would not cover or measures that would need to be completed prior to energy efficiency measures being installed. The grant states that initiatives that conserve energy will be considered. We wanted to see if that could include improvements such as asbestos removal, mold remediation, etc. that a low income homeowner may not be able to afford but which prevent them from taking advantage of the efficiency gains available through WAP. In this respect the grant funds would be used to fund improvements that enable energy efficiency. If that would not qualify then we will focus on efficiency improvements that WAP will not fund.**

A: As outlined in the application manual, the Cabinet seeks a variety of applications involving renewable and efficient energy initiatives and technologies. Based on the information contained in your question, it does not appear that funding for asbestos removal and mold remediation, while worthwhile endeavors, could be considered an energy efficient or renewable energy activity.

April 26, 2017

**Q: What are the reporting requirements if our application is selected? Are they similar to those for federal grants or are they more relaxed since these are settlement funds.**

A: Reporting requirements for this program shall be the same as for all programs administered under the Department for Energy Development and Independence.

April 27, 2017

**Q: If our grant total is \$50,000 and our matching fund amount is \$25,000, if the budget shows a \$25,000 match, will that be considered 50% of the fund for 7.5 evaluation points or a 100% contribution of the matching fund for 15 points?**

A: As outlined in the Application Manual on Page 5 under section 6. Evaluation and Scoring of Grant applications; funds leveraged as a percentage of project are scaled from zero points (zero match) to 15 points (match equal to or greater than 100% of funds requested). The table in Attachment 3 reflects how points will be prorated in relationship to the percent of leverage. As stated in the question above if the grant funds requested is \$50,000 and the budget shows a \$25,000 match that would be considered 50% and points awarded would be 7.5.

April 28, 2017

**Q: Can grant funds be used to purchase catering/food as part of training events in the proposed project?**

A: Yes, grant funds can be used for catering/food if expenses are reasonable.

April 28, 2017

**Q: Can grant funds be used to fund travel out of Kentucky in order to train Kentucky professionals to complete project deliverables?**

A: Yes, travel costs can be paid from grant funds if expenses are reasonable.

April 28, 2017

**Q: The application manual states that “for purposes of evaluating and scoring the applications, only cash contributions and monetized donations of goods will be considered as leverage (match).” Can donated staff time count as cost share?**

A: No, donated staff time cannot be used as cost share.

April 28, 2017

**Q: The application manual states that “for purposes of evaluating and scoring the applications, only cash contributions and monetized donations of goods will be considered as leverage (match).” Can discounts on physical equipment to be purchased for the project count as cost share?**

A: No, discounts on equipment cannot be counted as cost share.

April 28, 2017

**Q: The application manual states that “for purposes of evaluating and scoring the applications, only cash contributions and monetized donations of goods will be considered as leverage (match).” Can tuition fees paid by a private entity to join a training program that is part of the proposed project count as cost share?**

A: Yes - tuition fees paid as part of the program can be used as cost match.

May 5, 2017

**Q: The application manual states that eligible applications are secondary and post-secondary educational institutions. Are projects that include work at elementary and middle schools eligible? Are projects that include work at Administration buildings eligible?**

A: As outlined in the Application Manual the Cabinet seeks a variety of applications involving renewable and efficient energy initiatives and technologies. Therefore, if the work at the elementary, middle schools and administration buildings involves renewable and efficient energy initiatives and technologies then they would be eligible.

May 5, 2017

**Q: Can multiple buildings be combined within one application?**

A: There is nothing in the Application Manual that prohibits multiple buildings being combined in one application.

May 5, 2017

**Q: If the grant is awarded how much flexibility is there in adjusting the scope of work or budgetary numbers?**

A: There is nothing in the Application Manual that states the flexibility in adjusting the scope of work or budgetary numbers if grant is awarded. The applications will be scored and awarded based on the merits of each proposal.

May 5, 2017

**Q: Regarding the cash contribution, can the school district match the funds or does it need to be a donation from a third party source?**

A: There is nothing in the Application Manual that prohibits a school district from providing match funds. However, only cash contributions or monetized donations of goods will be considered.

May 5, 2017

**Q: Is the goal to select a project that provides the largest amount of energy or emission reduction or for a project that focuses on the largest amount of energy and emission reduction for the lowest cost possible?**

A: The goal of the Cabinet is to seek a variety of applications involving renewable and efficient energy initiatives and technologies. Projects will be scored based on the merits of each proposal.

May 5, 2017

**Q: Are we limited to submitting one application or can we submit an application for each of our clients that we are currently working with?**

A: An organization may submit multiple applications if it has the capability and expertise to do so. However, only one application for each topic listed may be submitted by a single organization.

May 8, 2017

**Q: In some places it says to submit the original application along with 5 copies, but in another place it says to submit the original with 3 copies. Do we submit 3 copies or 5 copies?**

A: The Application Manual consistently requests original and five (5) copies to be submitted. However, upon review of the Attachment 1. Application Form at the bottom of the signature page it does request original and three copies. The original and five (5) copies need to be submitted.

May 9, 2017

**Q: We will be submitting a letter of commitment from our match funder with our application. Who does the letter need to be addressed to?**

A: You can address the letters of commitment to - To Whom It May Concern.